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ABRAHAM LINCOLN
LIBERATOR — PATRIOT — PRESIDENT

REMARKS
OF
HON. JAMES A. GALLIVAN
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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OF
HON. JAMES A. GALLIVAN.

The House had under consideration the conference report on the bill (H. R. 9416) making appropriation to supply further urgent deficiencies in appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, and prior years, and for other purposes.

Mr. GALLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, it so happens that I was not a member of the subcommittee which considered this item in this bill, and neither did I have the privilege of being present at the meeting of the full committee when the item was considered. I had been summoned home on account of a death in my family. I have asked for these few minutes to-day particularly to say to this House that if I had had the opportunity I would proudly have voted for this amendment. [Applause.] I do not like to hear so much about the South when a proposition of this sort is before the Congress, and neither do I like to hear so much eloquence on my side of the aisle coming from distinguished Representatives from the Southland, for whom I have the utmost regard and respect, when a monument to the memory of Abraham Lincoln is being considered; nor do I like to have the honesty and character of men like those who comprise this commission questioned on this floor. It so happens that the distinguished first citizen of my own State—not a member of my political party—the present governor, Hon. Samuel W. McCall, was a member of this commission. I never knew him to do a dishonest act. It may be that he will be the next first citizen of this land; and as a Representative of the old Bay State, despite my loyalty to my own party, I would never hang my head if Sam McCall were President of the United States. [Applause on the Republican side.] Parenthetically, I would say that I would like to see that applause just a little stronger over on that side of the aisle. [Laughter and loud applause.]

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GALLIVAN. Surely.

Mr. GORDON. Is the gentleman a member of the Committee on Appropriations?

Mr. GALLIVAN. Yes.

Mr. GORDON. Does the gentleman know anything about these extras that he is talking about?

Mr. GALLIVAN. I hope so—probably as much as the gentleman from Ohio ever knows about what he talks about. [Laughter.] Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a monument to a man who was born 107 years ago last Saturday in a rude cabin in Kentucky, as the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SLAYDEN] has told us, destined to complete the work begun by Washington and to write his name indelibly on the history of mankind. He was born into a poverty that the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. GORDON] and others who now preach economy can scarcely understand, and into conditions that gave little presage of the splendid career of patriotism and statesmanship, sacrifice and solid worth his life accomplished, and if it were not for men like Lincoln the gentleman would not be a Member of the Congress of the United States in this day and year. [Applause.] Yet we hesitate at two hundred and fifty additional thousand dollars to complete a monument to his memory. In my judgment, thirty millions of dollars would not memorialize what Abraham Lincoln accomplished for this, the greatest country under the stars! [Applause.]

Out of a youth full of penury and unremitting toil, amid the rude and illiterate conditions of a hard frontier life, the boy plucked the rudiments of education. This self-taught backwoodsman was the incarnation of the American idea; strong and sound in body and mind, his simplicity and sanity, his honesty and courage, his humanity and humor, his charity and democracy were irresistible in refuting sophistry, unmasking falsehood, assailing wrong, and in bringing home to the American people the vigor and virtue of the basic principles of free government. [Applause.]

His splendid warning to the American people that slave and free could not exist together in a government of freemen sank

into the minds of the North; his declaration that slavery was inherently wrong appealed to their hearts and consciences; and his masterly series of addresses which led up to his nomination and election to the Presidency nerved the free States to meet the inevitable struggle which the preservation of the Union and the destruction of slavery involved. Abraham Lincoln's splendid patience and tolerance of his foes and critics, his invincible optimism and faith in the success of the cause of union and freedom, his unbounding charity and unfaltering persistence during the dark days of rebellion inspired the hearts and strengthened the courage of the Nation and brought victory to the Republic. In a large measure his work was done when he was stricken by the madman's bullet; the work that was done after him showed the lack of his guiding hand and broad humanity, and those whom the assassin hoped to help were the largest sufferers by his foul deed.

Lincoln passed into the company of the immortals at his death; his fame has broadened with the years into the very corners of the earth and is imperishable; his genuine greatness is acknowledged and unquestioned in every quarter of the globe; and he stands with Washington as one of the two greatest figures in the history of the American Republic. Washington found his country 13 dependent Colonies and transformed them into a federation of free, independent United States; Lincoln found the United States a jarring congress of Commonwealths, suspicious and intolerant of each other, faithless to the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the principles of freedom, and when he died he left a united country and a Nation of freemen. [Applause.]

To-day we recall his life and utterances and his fidelity to the high principles of liberty, humanity, equality, and the common brotherhood of man—principles that in this age are more honored in the breach than the observance. [Great applause.]

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